SOUTH WAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SWARCER NEWS

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Net nightly at 7:30 on the 147.105
- Tuesday night Net on 440 Linking system
- Next meeting is on December 1, 2008 at 7PM at Fuquay Varina Presbyterian Church: 307 N Ennis Street, Fuquay-Varina
- December meeting is a social

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## PUBLIC SERVICE HELP NEEDED!

Request for Public service help. Sunday Dec.7, 2008 from 1:30PM til 4:00PM. The 2008 Christmas Parade sponsored by The Fuquay-Varina Area Chamber of Commerce.

We Need 8-12 or more operators. Please contact Thomas Babb (WW4TLB) if you can help.

We will use simplex and HTs.

You can sit and enjoy the parade. We have been asked to help keep the parade moving.

All will have one of our safety vests to wear with club logo on it. What a fun afternoon to watch a good parade and play amateur radio and help out one of our communities.

Any questions call Thomas at 919.795.4747 or on club repeater.

Happy Holidays

## HAM RADIO TEST TIMES AND DATES

South Wake Amateur Radio Club asked the Capital Area Radio Testing Group (CART) to have regularly scheduled test sessions for hams in the southern Wake area.

A site has been found at North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team's (NC CERT) space in New Hill which is just outside of Apex. The location is the same as Apex Volunteer Fire Department Station 2.

The CART Group will have the first test session in New Hill on December 6, 2008. The session will start at promptly 9:30AM.

To test, you will need to bring a photo ID, the $14 test fee, your original license and a copy of your license. No pre-registration is required to test.

Any ARRL Volunteer Examiners that would like to participate (and are welcome to do so), please get in touch with the team's liasion, Dale Whitlock, Al4WF@nc.rr.com.

Further information can be found online at: http://cartgroup.org

*On November 6, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL VE administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by $1, from $14 to $15.*

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

BY W4TAR TIM RUFFIN

## SOUTH WAKE ARC OCTOBER 2008 NET REPORT

BY NC4MP MARK PERKINS

Hello everyone this is NC4MP Mark in "Beautiful" Pikeville with this month's net report!

We did not have a great month for the net as far as numbers go, in fact it dropped like a rock compared to the last couple of months. I think a lot has to do with the move to the Broadway machine because we were averaging about 25 or better check-ins per net and after the move is has dropped to an average of about 16 check-ins per net! That is a big drop per net check-ins for sure, I can only hope that we can get the numbers back up after the move back on the WRAL tower when the new repeater is put in place. Hopefully that will be soon!

I would like to give a big thanks to Mark AJ4KZ for stepping in on Halloween night and calling his first South Wake ARC net, from what I hear he did an outstanding job and I hope we can get him to call another one here very soon. Thanks again Mark!

Anyone interested in calling a net whether it is permanently with your own night or if you would like to just fill in and call one occasionally please let me know. We still have Saturday nights available for someone to take over and we always need fill in or substitute net controllers from time to time. The net script for the 2 meter net and the 440 net should now be on the website so you can get that and call a net. The nets are a lot of fun to call so give it a try! Hope to hear from someone soon about being a net controller.

The South Wake ARC 440 net has been going along pretty well not getting a great deal of check-ins we average about 14 per net and have had as many as 23 so it isn't too bad for net that is just starting out. I would like to see more participation with this net though and if you can please try and make the Tuesday night 440 net it would be most appreciated it is at 8:00 after our short abbreviated Tuesday night net.
The numbers on the month for the 440 net are as follows:

Net sessions: 4
Members participating: 15
Visitors participating: 25
Total check-ins: 59
Average Check-ins per net: 14.7

Now for the numbers for the 2 meter net:

Net sessions: 31
Members participating: 37
Visitors participating: 38
Total check-ins : 513
Average Check-ins Per net: 16

Check in Champ for October 2008 WA2YBM Jack Donnelly. Congratulations Mr.Y Be Mean!

As you can see our numbers have dropped like a rock for the month of October! I encourage everyone to try and make the nets as often as possible so we can get the numbers back up we always have a good net even though not as many are checking in but it is nice to have big nets and be THE NET everyone wants to check into! We have for the last couple of months been THE NET by which all others are judged and I would like to keep it that way! So, again I ask for all the participation that we can get to keep the South Wake ARC net the best net in Wake and surrounding counties!

Alright folks that is all I have for the month. So, with that this is NC4MP Mark in "Beautiful" Pikeville saying 73 till next month!

## SWARC MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

BY KI4TFO JENNIFER AVERY

W4TAR Tim called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Tim introduced tonight's speakers – from the 440 Ronnie Casey and Mack Morgan for CERT.

There were lots of people out sick.

**TREASURER REPORT:** NC4DH Don reported that there is $1,105.00 in the account.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Jennifer was out sick. Motion was made that the minutes in newsletter were accepted as written in the SWARC newsletter. Seconded and passed.

**EVENTS:** NC4RA Ryan listed 3 events for next year. Winter Field Day, January 24-25, 2009. Regular Field Day, June 27-28, 2009. JOTA, October 17-18, 2009. He also discussed a possible field trip to the Battleship.

Ryan said we need to organize a display kit for small events. W4TAR Tim told Ryan and KI4VSO Tommy to come up with a list of what we need to buy.

AI4WF Dale said any articles for the newsletter need to be in by Friday.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Dale reported that there are 53 new members. The newest technician KJ4HNA, David Caudle. New members: Arthur Strong KI4YII, David Caudle KJ4HNA, Dave Yow K4MSE & Ronald Ford W4RJF.

Dale said he wanted to talk to Mack Morgan about the December 6, 2008 testing session in New Hill for the Capital Area Radio Testing VE team.

NC4MP was not present, so there was no net report. He sent word that we have 4 tables for JARSfest on November 16, 2008.

Thomas WW4TLB gave a report about the success of Hollyfest and the 5k race. Thomas thanked CERT for the use of their command truck vehicle at the event.

Thomas also reported that December 7, 2008 is the Christmas Parade in Fuquay-Varina. We need volunteers for communications from 1:30-4:30PM. Please contact Thomas. Gino has the application in for the parade. There is no charge for one float since we are volunteering at the event. See Gino if you want to help out with the float.

Thomas demonstrated the traffic vest that he bought for $180.89. KG4RMT Selene made a motion to reimburse Thomas for the vest which was seconded and passed.

Thomas said that we will be teaming up with Helping Hands and RARS for future public service events.

Next month's meeting will be a social event. Tim will not be present. See Tommy for details and planning.

Mack Morgan gave a presentation on NC CERT. He talked about the command vehicle that was parked outside and invited everyone to check out the vehicle after the meeting. Mack stated that our club and CERT are working on an agreement. CERT is mainly a search and rescue division which needs communication operator while the teams are in the field. Website: www.nccert.org

Tommy introduced K4JDR, Ronnie Casey, who gave a program on the 440 linking system.

Meeting was adjourned.

Members present: 27 members and 8 guests present.

### TREASURY REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance as of 11/03/08 | $1105.83 |
| Membership dues | $ 67.50 |
| Donation—W4TAR | $ 23.00 |
| 50/50 drawing—November | $ 23.00 |
| KI4VSO | $ 15.00 |
| NC4DH | $ 37.00 |
| Dinner | $ 125.12 |
| Expenditure: | |
| W4TAR Check 1121 | $ 84.04 |
| KI4TFO Check 1122 | $ 60.00 |
| NC4RA Cash | $ 57.12 |
| WW4TLB Check 1123 | $ 180.89 |
| Checks (Bank) | $ 20.15 |
| PO Box for 6 Mo. Cash | $ 37.00 |
| Deposit | $ 196.50 |
| Total as of 11/06/08: | $ 957.25 |

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED NC4DH

## From The Kitchen of JENNIFER AVERY

### SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

**Ingredients:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 cups | Sweet potato – cooked and mashed |
| 1 cup | Granulated sugar or Splenda |
| ½ cup | Butter or margarine |
| 2 | Eggs, slightly beaten |

Mix all ingredients together and pour into casserole dish (9x 12)

**Topping:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 cup | Brown Sugar or Brown Sugar Splenda |
| ½ cup | Melted butter |
| 2 tbl | Flour (all purpose) |
| 1 cup | Chopped pecans |

Mix all topping ingredients together and pour over the potato mixture. Put in oven and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes

The December meeting will be a social

## TECH TIP

BY W4VCF JIM WILLIAMS

### dBi vs dBd

Antenna advertisements sometimes express gain figures in dBi, sometimes in dBd. Which is most meaningful and what is the relationship between them?

Decibels define a power ratio, meaningful only if compared to something. Keep in mind that antennas don't have a gain in the same sense that amplifiers do. Rather, antenna gain is an indication of redistribution of the available power. If we have a stronger signal in one direction, it means we have a weaker signal somewhere else - sometimes beneficial, sometimes not.

If the power were distributed uniformly in all directions in free space (picture the flame from a candle), we would say that we have an isotropic source. Such a source is not possible to make in a real world, but it can be useful as a point of comparison. Continuing in the same vein, let's say with some kind of reflector we could make all the power going backward add to the power going forward so that we have a pattern that is uniform over a hemisphere, instead of a sphere. The power on that side would be twice as high as before, although the power in the backward direction would be zero. Thus we have achieved a gain of 3 dB in the forward direction compared to the spherical pattern of the isotropic antenna. This we would call a gain of 3 dBi, the i meaning an isotropic reference.

In free space, a dipole antenna radiates more power in its preferred direction because there is a null along the wire axis. The signal in its maximum direction has a gain of 2.14 dB compared to an isotropic antenna, or 2.14 dBi. A dipole's gain compared to a dipole, of course, is a factor of 1.0. Thus, the same dipole with a gain of 2.14 dBi also has a gain of 0 dBd. Any antenna's gain can be expressed equally validly in either terms. Some manufacturers prefer to use dBi because the numbers are bigger (would you rather have an 8 ounce or a 1/2 pound steak?).

## LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS PROVIDE COMMUNICATION...

BY WA2YBM JACK DONNELLY

Saturday, October 25 started before daybreak, with a light drizzle falling and a fall chill in the air... Members of South Wake Amateur Radio Club aided by the North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team's Communication Van provided communications for Holly Fest held in Holly Springs held by the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce and Town of Holly Springs. . . The amateurs provided communications for set up of the event and also provide communications for the annual 5K Holly Fest Run.

Our job was to provide communication and traffic control during the set up of the vendors for the chamber of commerce and the special parking for the vendors.

The Local Holly Springs KF4AUF repeater on 444.325 located on the water tower on School Days Dr. that is operated by The Carolina 440 UHF Link System by Ronnie J. Casey, K4JDR, Danny Musten, KD4RAA and Butch Henion, KF4AUF. The Group provided hand held coverage during the event.

Members of the South Wake Amateur Club provided communications for the annual 5K fun run that weaved around Womble Park in Holly Springs. Our job was to relay any problems during the run to our command post set up at Womble Park in the NC CERT communication van. Thomas Babb, WW4TLB was net control.

Several of our members helped out with the race. Ryan Avery, NC4RA, Tommy Williams, KI4VSO, Mark Womack, KJ4ECJ and Jim Williams, W4VCF were stationed around the 5K course and provided important information to the race staff of where runners were located on the course and also kept an eye on runners in case they needed to transmit any injury reports back to the command post.

After the set-up & the race was completed all amateurs met back at the NC CERT Communications Van and began to set-up our own display. South Wake members manned a table set up with amateur radios and a slide show presentation of the different information about Amateur Radio. After several local rain showers the crowd increased and overall it was a great day to be in the park. Scoop Green, Director of the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce praises the help of the South Wake amateurs. "It was a great help to have good communication for the set up. The smoothest set-up ever and that was thanks to the good communications your club members provided."

The Fest had different games and rides for the younger set. Sorry, no grown ups on these, but they could enjoy the pig racing contests. (Oink - Oink) We can't forget the two climbing walls that had climbers all day long climbing almost to the top and then latterly falling back down. Everyone had a good time, all day long. Those participating were: Thomas WW4TLB, Jim W4VCF, Mark KJ4ECJ, Tommy KI4VSO, Byron K4NGJ, Ryan NC4RA, Jack WA2YBM, Mack Morgan WX4SAR.

# DEALING WITH A DEAD BATTERY

BY W2RDU JOHN FIORENTINO

We've all done it! You leave the movie theater only to realize that you left your lights on. With fingers crossed, you turn your ignition key only to hear that dreaded Tick, Tick, Tick of a dead battery. Extreme heat, cold, powerful accessories, improper care and age take their toll on your vehicle battery. A dead battery can leave you stranded at the most inopportune time.

A good set of jumper cables or portable starter kit can save you the long wait and embarrassment of roadside service. Jump starting your battery with Booster Cables or Portable Jump Starter can be an easy procedure. Following these simple steps will help save you time and money.

**Precautions:** Never, Ever allow the ends of your jumper cables to touch. Allowing the Positive (usually Red Cable) to touch the Negative (Usually Black Cable) could lead to sparks, fire, battery explosions and serious damage to you and your electrical system.

1. If necessary, uncover your battery posts (Some posts are covered by plastic or rubber caps).
2. Connect the RED or Positive (+) cable to the Positive (+) battery post of the Dead Battery. Make sure that you have a good connection between the clamp and post.
3. Connect the other end of the RED or Positive (+) cable to the Positive (+) post of the Good Battery.
4. Connect the NEGATIVE (-) Black cable clamp (on the same end of the jumper cables) to the NEGATIVE (-) post of the Good Battery.
5. **Important -** Connect the other NEGATIVE (-) Black cable to a Clean (Unpainted) metal surface under the disabled vehicle's hood. Do Not connect the Negative cable to the Negative Dead Battery Post as this could cause an explosion.
6. Start the vehicle with the Good Battery and allow it to run for 5 minutes with the cables connected. It's a good idea to give the host vehicle a little gas to bring it up to a high idle. This will encourage the alternator to produce more current to help energize the dead battery.
7. Make sure that all bystanders are clear of your engine bay. Battery explosions can lead to Serious Injury, Burns or Death. It's best to keep bystanders inside their vehicles and clear of your battery.
8. Attempt to start the disabled vehicle. If the vehicle does not start, recheck all your jumper cable connections. You may need to wiggle the clamps to make sure that they get a good bite into the battery posts. If necessary, relocate the Negative (-) Black cable to a new bare metal location. It's important to find bare metal that makes good ground contact with your chassis.
9. To use a Portable Jump Starter, connect the starter to your battery following steps 1 thru 5 above. Allow it to charge according to manufacturer specifications, then attempt to start your vehicle.

It's a good idea to have your battery and alternator checked by a qualified mechanic as soon as possible. This will help insure that your electrical system was not damaged and is charging properly. A dead battery can leave you stranded, unless you carry the proper tools and know how to use them.

**Words of Caution!**

**Lead-acid batteries contain a sulfuric acid. Acid is a highly corrosive poison and can produce explosive gasses (Such as Hydrogen and Oxygen) when being charged. While working around batteries, always work in a well-ventilated area; remove any jewelry and loose fitting clothing. Always wear protective eyewear and gloves. Carefully follow all manufacturer directions when testing, jumping, installing, and recharging batteries.**

**Should you or anyone around you ever get battery acid on their skin or eyes, call 911 immediately! Flush the affected area with cool tap water for at least 20 minutes. Be sure to flush the contaminant away from the affected area, and prevent runoff from touching unaffected areas. Always follow manufacturers warning labels for your specific product.**

# TIPS FOR NEW GENERAL WORKING HF

BY AJ4KZ MARK WOMACK

So you've upgraded to General, have a spanking new-to-you HF rig and you're ready to tune 20 meters and throw your call out just like you've done on 2 meters.

Well, it sure would be nice if it was that simple, but HF is a different animal but it's a fun animal if you know how to use it.

The first issue with HF is that, when you first jump on it you probably won't know a soul that you talk to. When you got your Tech license you probably had already met up with a bunch of the local hams, found an Elmer, and bonded with some club somewhere. Well, HF isn't quite so accomodating, but it is fun, and, with a few simple tips you'll be able to enjoy it as much as local repeaters.

First, HF has a few general protocols. For one, frequencies at 14 MHz and above (20 meters to 10) tend to be more useful during the daylight hours simply because of propogation patterns.

If you plan to work DX in the night hours, 14 MHz down through 3.5 MHz is going to be the best choice. - These are just guidelines so take them all with a grain of salt.

I've found, in the daytime, when I want to make a better contact on 20 meters that, if I wait until after 11 AM I can expect to hear Europe start rolling in. Countries such as Italy, France, and England will start to fire up the bands during that late morning segment, but you should also look for good grey-line propagation along the solar Terminator line that appears any where in the world at sunrise and sunset. So, for example, if you're looking to hit Oxford, England using the grey-line, then the best opportunities would be at 2 AM and 1 PM (local time). While the first option's only good for insomniacs, a lot of hams will want to try that after-lunch contact plenty often from their mobile HF stations.

(When Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends, Eastern time would be 5 hours behind England time so always take into account the time zone of your target). Using the clocks at 'timeanddate.com' provides a good reference for when sunrise/set happens anywhere. - Conversely, numerous contacts will be attempted towards the United States at sunrise and sunset so this is also a good time to fire up the HF rig.

## TUNING THE RIG

Any new ham thinks there are lots of buttons to deal with whether it's a 2-meter rig or an HF-rig - but think about it: when you talk on 2 meters how many buttons do you actually adjust a lot? Maybe the volume knob, the squelch, and the memory-bank selection controls. The point is, in general, you will not be making TOO many adjustments.

But there are some things, when trying to pull in a distant HF station, that help make it easier.

The bane of HF is the noise - but if it's going to be there, then the best way to mitigate it is to make use of the filters on your rig. In my case, if the tone of the incoming station is too harsh, I'll tend to adjust the IF shift so that the other operators voice is more readable and the atmospheric noise isn't so distracting.

When I'm tuning across the band (typically 20 meters) I keep the RF gain kicked all of the way up which can be irritating. Why? Because, even though you're amplifying the voice of incoming stations, all of the static on the band is being amplified right along with it.

I also tune through the bad at a 1 kHz rate, but once I realize that there is real radio intelligence at some Frequency, I will start to tune at 100 Hz or so (and that's common sense), but one thing to be careful of (at least on some rigs) is use of the RIT. While - on older rigs like my IC-730 - the RIT is a great timesaver, it can be a problem if I plan to talk back to the station I've tuned. My RIT will tune the incoming signal, but it will not adjust the outgoing signal so - while I'll be able to hear the dude in Italy just fine he may come back to me and say that I am off frequency. So, anymore, I will avoid use of the RIT if I plan to make a contact and instead try to tune more precisely with 10 Hz steps. I can get just as true a sound that way and I won't run the risk of missing a contact because of it. (Newer rigs may get past this, but for us cheap new hams it can be an issue).

And - going back to RF gain - once you tune the station well, kick RF gain down some and you will find most of the background noise will fall off, while the modulation of the other
station stays nice and strong.

## MAKING THE CONTACT

So, you tune the guy (or gal) in, and there's little QSB to stop you. What next?

Well ---- listen. If you don't want to tick off the established hams, the just LISTEN. Hams are a proud bunch, and there is Established procedure. Hams are all about effective communication but there's a way to do it. I've heard a guy calling "CQ California! CQ California !" and for some reason I thought he wanted to talk to me so I replied with my call one time. Well he came back with "Are you in CALIFORNIA !!!!" I could tell what he meant, told him I was NOT and said I was sorry - going silent after that. So, you get the gist.

And there are a few (and I mean just a FEW) ways to set yourself up for contact mimicking what you might hear during DX contests. You can mirror a process known as "running" or the other known as "search and pounce". Search and pounce - which is what I tend to mimick simply means scanning the band until you hear a station that is calling CQ for a contact. If the station's CQ indicates they're just making a general call, then you can respond back with your call sign a few times to see if they choose you as the next contact. In general, if you can hear them then they can hear you (that doesn't mean you're the strongest station responding, but you have a good chance of being heard).

If you decide to run instead, then that means you will find yourself a frequency that is not in use and begin to call CQ. In a non-contest environment, this can require some patience. You may give out your

continued on next page...

## TIPS FOR NEW GENERAL CONT…

call for some time and not hear anything back - but somebody has to be the station that stays put, so why not you.

Now, if you are going to run - follow the established protocol to call CQ. (And for new hams that are interested in Morse code, the format is pretty much the same as for phone). Since, on HF, you may be able to only hear one half of the conversation, you should always ask "Is this frequency in use ?" and then wait about 30 seconds and repeat it a second time. On the data segment, the Q-signal QRL asks the same thing.

If it's not try sending (using your own call) :
CQ CQ CQ Calling CQ This is -your call-
Calling CQ CQ CQ This is -your call-
CQ CQ CQ This is -your call-
CQ CQ CQ This is -your call-
Calling on 20 Meters & standing by

The reason for this extended call is to capture the attention of stations that might be cruising through the band in big steps. If you just throw out your call quickly your chances of being heard will be pretty low.

Most folks recommend waiting for about 30 seconds (tuning up or down a few kilohertz) to see if any replies come in. Using your other VFO will help with this. Why tune up and down? Well, remember that I'd mentioned before that stations may not be on frequency so when they reply back you could miss them. Checking a few kHz up or down helps you to get them on frequency for a QSO.

If that first call does not work, do it multiple times until you get a reply or conditions improve. (Sometimes it make sense to take a break if conditions aren't in your favor). In any case always remember that ther are about 6 million hams world-wide with about 10% of the world's hams right here in the U.S. so - more than likely - you'll make a U.S. contact before hitting hams overseas, but those contacts can be as exciting as the foreign ones.

Once you make your contact, it's customary to confirm call signs, and exchange names, and signal (RST) reports. Also equipment information can be discussed. On phone, R and S (readibility and signal strength) are exchanged, but T (tone) only applies to CW contacts. Simple charts showing the RST characteristics are all over the web (just search on RST HAMIO RADIO) to find one. Understand that 'readibility' refers to how well you can understand the other station and runs on a scale from 1 to 5 with (5) being very generous. If the guy or gal sounds like they're right in your station with you, they get a 5, but if they sound like they've got golf balls in their mouth, then giving them a 1 might make more sense. The S, or SIGNAL, they present doesn't have to be based on the S-meter (though it helps). I've had stations with perfectly fine signals (in low-noise conditions) that didn't get too high up on the S-meter, but I gave them an S of 9 because the signal was good, subject to little QSB, and not affected otherwise.

**When you tune through the bands** it helps to know where to look. As a general guide, the modes used on HF occupy a lot less bandwidth than what you'll find on the VHF and UHF segments since SSB and data modes are used most often. That means you have to be more careful about where you are in the band plan.

Although Generals get allocated the lion's share of all the ham bands (at about 83% of our privileges) it is possible to accidentally tune into a segment not within your class or transmit on a frequency that puts you outside of the bands altogether. If working USB be careful to tune at least 3 kHz below the top of your privileges (and 3 kHz above the bottom of your privileges - just like you learned for the test).

Also, some segments in the band plan are meant for data or image only (PSK31, CCW, RTTY, SSTV, etc.) so be aware of where you are so that you don't cause harmful interference. Some cases (like spread-spectrum can be easily interfered with because they're not easily detected without the proper gear). So, in short, follow the band plan, band plan, bandplan.

**For finding DX contacts** there are many tools available to today's ham. Products, like Ham Radio Deluxe (currently free) summarizes spotter information for you. All you have to do is click a tab in the program and you get an idea of where DX is happening from. There are several HF beacons that you can check to see if certain parts of the world are coming alive. Even checking the conditions on related bands can tell you if band openings are imminent. There are programs out there that will provide alerts when band openings happen (now how cool is that!?)

**There are a million and one great things about Ham radio**, but HF has to be one of the top ten. Following a couple of simple steps will get you ready to enjoy HF and even Field Day a lot more.

**As some final pointers**, in general 80 meters and 40 meters can serve the Dxer well during the night hours and 80 meters tends to provide more openings during the winter (than in the summer). For 40 meters, expect it to open up during the late afternoon. That's not a guarantee but it is a reasonable expectation. 40 meters can be very useful during the night hours as well. 20 meters, as far as I can tell, seems great for overall general usage. I like to work it for Grey Line propagation at sunrise and sunset. You'll also find some great contacts start to roll in from the east and the west during late morning if you run with a dipole oriented north to south. We're hoping the sunspot cycle picks up because more sunspots mean better propagation for hams but even without that some interesting contacts can still be made before the sunspot peak gets here.

Good luck with HF. It's a great way to spend the day.

73,
Mark
AJ4KZ

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS

**November 16, 2008 JARSFEST**
Benson, NC
http://www.jars.net

**January 10, 2009 Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Winston-Salem FirstFest**
Winston-Salem, NC
http://www.w4nc.com

**February 7, 2009 Virginia State Convention (Richmond Frostfest)**
Richmond, VA
http://www.frostfest.com

**February 22, 2009 Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest**
Annandale, VA
http://www.viennawireless.com

**March 14-15, 2009 Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society Roanoke Division Convention**
Concord NC
http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest

**April 11, 2009 Raleigh Amateur Radio Society North Carolina State Convention**
Raleigh, NC
http://www.rars.org/hamfest

## SKYWARN INFORMATION NETS & UPCOMING EVENTS

As posted on http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/

Every Tuesday at 9:15PM on the 146.88 repeater

**November 11 - "Winter Weather Outlook"** with NWS Lead Forecaster Phil Badgett

**December 2 - "Revisiting the December 1989 Ice Storm and the Fall of the WRAL-TV and WPTF-TV Towers"**; recollections of guests WRAL Chief Meteorologist Greg Fishel and NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**December 7th** - Holly Springs Christmas Parade, Holly Springs

More details and sign-up information can be found on links from the Ham public service calendar at: www.hampublicservice.org

## LINKS OF INTEREST

South Wake ARC Club website: http://www.southwakearc.com/

South Wake ARC Yahoo group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southwakearc/

Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network: http://pcrn.net/

Carolina 440 linked system: http://www.carolina440.net/

Central Carolina Skywarn: http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/

SouthEastern Repeater Association: http://www.sera.org/

Wake County CERT: http://www.wakecountycert.org/

Wake County ARES/RACES: http://www.wakeares.org/

ARRL: http://www.arrl.org/

FCC Universal Licensing System: http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home

Hamfest calendar: http://k4hm.net/calendar.php

NC Canine Emergency Response Team: http://www.nccert.org/

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FREE:**

Computer: I have a computer (Desktop, Pentium 3) for the swap listing. Free to the first person who asks. Contact Jim Williams – W4VCF (w4vcf@arrl.net)

**WANTED:**

Digital Display: I am searching for a Digital display option (DG-1) for a Kenwood TS-820. Anyone that can put me on the trail to one please contact me. Tommy Williams, KI4VSO. ki4vso@gmail.com

**SOUTH WAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Primary Business Address
PO Box 1565
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

## Public Service Through Amateur Radio

**South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.**

Newsletter Editor
Vessie Whitlock AI4UP
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All articles for the next edition need to be sent to editor by December 5, 2008.

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Director of Large: Steve Mowels KA0GMY ka0gmy@bellsouth.net
Director at Large: Ryan Avery NC4RA rwavery@charter.net

## 2008/2009 MEMBER ROSTER

New member since last newsletter

**Full Members:**

AA4XX Paul Stroud
AE4PC Phil Cunningham
AI4OZ Don Sharer
AI4UP Vessie Whitlock
AI4WF Dale Whitlock
AJ4KZ Mark Womack
K4HM Hank Montgomery
K4ITL Danny Hampton*
K4JDR Ronnie Casey
K4MSE Dave Yow
K9RII Jim Young
KA0GMY Steve Mowels
KA1CZI Stan Czyrnik
KB4BLU Jim Staley
KD4OKR Mike Ramsey
KE4RUN Hargrove Davis
KF4RDN Glenn Crissman
KF4USQ Anna Crissman
KG4HPE Patricia Babb
KG4RMT Selene Montgomery
KG4WFD Chris Caudle
KI4BRZ Randy Kemp
KI4HDZ Grady Johnson
KI4PMI Barry Emery
KI4SHY Peggy Sharer
KI4TFO Jennifer Avery
KI4TWW Haley Whitlock
KI4TWY Roy Avery
KI4VSO Tommy Williams
KI4YII Arthur Strong
KJ4CXY Dennis Parker
KJ4DNS Ron Rasberry
KI4YXO Gino Fernandini
KJ4AEO Christy Fernandini
KJ4FYX Jeremy Barnard
KJ4GIZ David Whitehurst
KJ4HNA David Caudle
NC4BJ "BJ" Jenkins
NC4DH Donn Harris
NC4MP Mark Perkins
NC4RA Ryan Avery
W2RDU John Fiorentino
W4FXE Ken Medlin
W4TAR Tim Ruffin
W4RJF Ronald Ford
W4VCF Jim Williams
WA2YBM Jack Donnelly
WB4BAH Tim Kemp
WW4TLB Thomas Babb

**Associate Members:**

Nancy Avery
Gloria Mowels
Philip Whitehurst
Katie Whitlock

* Lifetime Member